



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 1, 2005
Week Ending: July 31, 2005
CWP WA-CW3105

Hot and Dry Conditions Were Experienced Irrigation Necessary

Field Crop

Hot, dry conditions were experienced in most areas in the state. Warm temperatures aided grain maturity and helped harvest to progress rapidly. Above average yields for winter wheat reported in many counties. Harvest of potatoes, dry edible peas, dry edible beans, and corn harvested for silage were underway. However, dry conditions caused spot fires to occur on wheat lands in Douglas and Chelan Counties.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 11% very poor, 27% poor, 31% fair, 30% good, and 1% excellent. Dry conditions allowed hay cutting to go on without interruption. Some hay fields showed signs of heat stress.

Fruits and Vegetables

The hot, dry weather required a higher level of irrigation necessary for vegetable and fruit crop areas. Stone fruit harvesting and grape thinning continued in Benton County. Early peach harvest began. Apricot picking and blueberry harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	20	32	48	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	44	34	0
Subsoil	23	47	30	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	49	40	0
Irrigation Water	13	17	70	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	5	13	78	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	22	7	21	13
Winter Wheat Harvested	40	16	32	30
Barley Headed	100	99	100	100
Barley Harvested	22	9	17	12
Potatoes Harvested	29	16	17	17
Corn Silage Harvested	10	0	1	0
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	10	1	1	0
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	100	96	94	98
Dry Peas Harvested	57	45	18	17
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	100	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	88	86	89	92
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	17	6	33	20

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	8	25	47	18
Winter Wheat Irrigated	2	5	16	65	12
Spring Wheat Dryland	5	13	43	37	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	6	10	21	58	5
Barley Dryland	10	20	35	33	2
Barley Irrigated	10	16	25	49	0
Potatoes	0	3	19	62	16
Corn	0	1	14	79	6
Dry Edible Beans	3	10	35	50	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Another week of unseasonably warm temperatures resulted in drought-like conditions on non-irrigated pastures. Livestock producers harvested hay under nearly ideal conditions. Christmas tree growers began shearing Grand fir and continued top working Noble fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent demand to the point of being sold out. Sweet corn and field corn were beginning to show signs of drought stress where irrigation was not available.

Kitsap: The hot, dry weather made irrigation necessary for area vegetable and fruit crops. Produce selection at local Farmer's Markets was excellent.

Mason: No precipitation for the second week in a row and warmer than expected temperatures signified our dry summer season had arrived. Normal irrigation measures were in effect. Folks who waited to hay were finally able to resume a somewhat normal schedule. Farmer's Markets were in full swing, as a variety of crops were harvested and available for sale.

Mason (2nd Report): Continued hot dry weather set in. Fields were dry, and irrigation became necessary.

Pierce: Hay processing time decreased to two days due to the very dry conditions. Pasture conditions deteriorated significantly as well as irrigation water supply.

San Juan: The weather was warm and dry. Hay was being baled and stored. Vegetables were at the peak of season. There was not enough water for livestock, so farmers were trucking it in.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been warm and dry. Conditions were good for harvest of some crops. There were no crop losses reported.

Snohomish/King: Last week was the first full rainless week since the end of May. Farmers who had put off cutting hay got in a dry crop that was over mature. Manure spreading continued. Blueberry harvest continued. Lots of mummy berries were showing up.

Thurston: A week of very warm temperatures reaching the mid-80's resulted in drought conditions on most non-irrigated pastures and hayfields in the county. Blueberry and turfgrass producers were hard pressed to keep up with irrigation requirements. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Grand and Nordman fir. Livestock producers harvested their second cutting of forage under nearly ideal conditions for making conventional square bale hay. Home gardeners enjoyed their first ripe tomatoes, cucumbers, and beets.

Thurston (2nd Report): The annual drought is here. The drought is expected to be bad through the end of September.

Central

Adams: Winter wheat harvest wound down in the southern end of the county and remained in full swing in the remaining areas. Yields were better than average overall with good grain quality.

Benton: Extremely hot weather kept irrigators busy. Stone fruit harvest continued. Weed control and grape thinning were other activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Wheat harvest continued in the county.

Douglas/Chelan: Winter wheat harvest was in full swing. Dry conditions were becoming a problem. Several spot fires occurred on wheat lands. Above average yields were reported in most areas, which was attributed to timely rains in May and June. Warm, windy weather occurred throughout both counties. Livestock water projects continued through the Emergency Conservation Program. Wells were drilled. Almost everyone found water at reasonable depths.

Franklin: Hay harvest was going smoothly with excellent hay being harvested. Hot conditions will allow drying to go quickly.

Kittitas: Hay growers with water left were watering up a second cutting of timothy hay. Hot, dry weather contributed to slow growth of hay, but corn was doing very well in the hot sun. Rangeland conditions were very dry everywhere except high elevation forest range, although that is expected this time of year. Evenings have been cool enough to prevent the spread of root rot that hit this time last year. Time will tell whether it takes off again.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Grain harvest began as well as the second cutting of hay. Hot and windy weather continued.

Lincoln: Dryland winter wheat harvest was wrapping up in the southwest corner of the county and was just beginning in the northeast corner. Overall, the crop has been above average in yield with reports of good grain quality.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3-8 degrees above normal with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to a weather event reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest progressed rapidly as the weather was hot and dry. Yields for winter wheat that was planted on summer fallow have been very good. Recrop winter wheat and spring crop yields were well below normal in the majority of the county. Yields for wheat were as low as ten bushels per acre and barley was as low as 500 pounds per acre.

Garfield: Continued temperatures of 95 to 105 were quickly ripening the wheat. Yields for winter wheat have been low to average so far. Spring wheat harvest is scheduled to begin this week.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures were 89 degrees for the high and 36 degrees for the low with no precipitation. Very hot weather caused annual rye to dry up. Hay in the fields was showing heat stress and was beginning to wilt. Oat farmers were only able to cut in the early morning when stocks were moist with dew, otherwise swathers were causing oat heads to break off stalks and lose the grain. Farmers that have irrigated equipment started on irrigation. Most producers felt a second cutting of hay will be possible. Dry farmers will be unable to get a second cutting except those along the river that have sub-irrigation. Most livestock were finding shade during mid-day heat and foraging only in the early morning and evenings. Dust was easily produced, which can lead to mites in fields.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of very warm weather aided grain maturity and also made for some nice bluegrass seed harvest. Fruit producers at Green Bluff were picking apricots and some early peaches. The second cutting of hay was in full swing. Grain harvest in the lower precipitation zones began. Dry pea harvest and lentil swathing were progressing. No rain was received during the week, and temperatures were in the mid-90's.

Stevens: Grass hay harvest was finishing up. A fire was reported in hay equipment in a field. It ignited from smoldering dry sod. After putting out the fire, the area was soaked with irrigation water to avoid letting the fire reach the peat underneath.

Stevens (2nd Report): Temperatures in the mid-90's and clear skies allowed haying to go on without interruption. The last of the first cutting was completed, and some producers worked on the second cutting. Grain harvest began in the southern part of the county.

Walla Walla: Harvest progressed well. Yields were average overall but wheat yields were very good. Conditions remained very hot and dry.

Whitman: Harvest continued to progress. Yield reports were average for winter wheat and below average for spring crops.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 1, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	50	80	65	3	110	19	40	16	0.00	-0.28	0	37.41	2.54	107	155
Everett	53	82	67	4	122	25	52	24	0.00	-0.25	0	26.38	-8.79	75	152
Hoquiam	49	79	62	1	84	7	15	1	0.00	-0.24	0	55.73	-10.57	84	183
Kelso	52	90	71	6	144	40	74	39	0.00	-0.21	0	28.12	-16.65	63	123
Olympia	46	88	67	4	122	24	52	24	0.00	-0.18	0	39.23	-10.27	79	154
Sea-Tac	54	86	70	5	143	31	73	31	0.00	-0.15	0	31.46	-4.72	87	135
Shelton	48	89	68	3	128	16	58	16	0.00	-0.17	0	53.64	-10.28	84	150
Tacoma	48	86	68	4	129	24	59	24	0.00	-0.19	0	26.99	-11.48	70	122
Vancouver	53	93	73	8	161	55	91	52	0.00	-0.18	0	29.18	-11.05	73	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	51	100	77	9	190	57	120	57	0.00	-0.07	0	6.84	-1.73	80	81
Stampede Pass	49	82	67	11	118	69	48	41	0.00	-0.28	0	60.79	-18.60	77	172
Wenatchee	62	100	80	6	213	42	143	43	0.00	-0.07	0	5.22	-2.68	66	60
Yakima AP	52	101	75	5	178	31	108	31	0.00	-0.05	0	5.70	-1.89	75	75
NORTHEAST															
Colville	43	100	73	6	163	43	93	40	0.00	-0.21	0	21.62	1.55	108	106
Deer Park	39	96	68	-3	126	-14	56	-14	0.00	-0.14	0	20.76	3.08	117	118
Spokane AP	52	97	75	6	180	40	110	40	0.00	-0.14	0	14.32	-1.49	91	98
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	57	100	79	4	207	25	137	25	0.00	-0.07	0	6.05	-0.93	87	60
Moses Lake	54	100	77	1	187	5	117	5	0.00	-0.07	0	6.25	-0.73	90	58
Quincy	57	97	77	6	193	39	123	39	0.00	-0.07	0	5.52	-1.86	75	52
Ritzville	50	98	74	5	170	30	100	30	0.00	-0.07	0	9.13	-1.79	84	68
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	59	107	83	4	231	28	161	28	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-2.64	56	44
Pasco	52	103	77	3	192	10	122	10	0.00	-0.07	0	5.32	-1.80	75	60
Pullman	42	96	71	5	145	28	75	26	0.00	-0.14	0	5.95	-14.29	29	67
Whitman Miss.	46	102	73	2	162	8	92	8	0.00	-0.12	0	10.16	-2.92	78	98
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	95	71	1	148	1	78	2	0.00	-0.21	0	11.55	-13.17	47	84
Lewiston ID	58	103	80	5	212	34	142	36	0.00	-0.14	0	11.47	-0.19	98	92

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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